

IL-21-07

INSPECTION NOTES

UNION OIL COMPANY:
(LEMONT)

SLUDGE DISPOSAL COMPLAINT

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



425924

DATE OF VISIT:

MAY 26, 1970

INTERVIEWED:

ROBERT HAMILTON, CITY ENGINEER FOR CRESTHILL

ACCOMPANIED BY:

ROBERT CRAWFORD, SANITARIAN, WCHD.

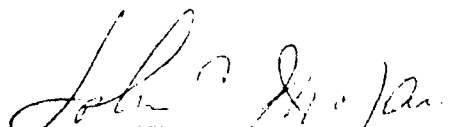
In response to the May 22, 1970 telephone complaint from Robert Hamilton, concerning the dumping of petroleum refinery sludges from "Texaco" by Kubinski disposal on land just west of the east pond near Cresthill City Hall, an inspection was made of this area.

Visual observations indicate the tank trucks have been hauling a light grey slurry to this site, reportedly owned by Kubinski, about daily for the last couple weeks. The material was still a semi-solid liquid and gave off a petroleum type odor. When disturbed the underneath layer had a much stronger and almost septic type odor. When dumped, this material was considerably fluid and flowed toward, and most likely, into the swampy creek bed lying to the north within 100 feet of the drop point. The ground was too soft, spongy and marshy to be able to walk in the actual creek bed, preventing a closer inspection. From what could be observed it was obvious that the material did readily flow into the creek. Rain run off would also, wash this material into the stream.

At first Crawford indicated that the Will County Health Department would not be concerned since this dump site does not contain vegetable matter or garbage, but he did say that the Will County Health Department would get involved for operating a land fill operation without the Will County Health Department authorization. The county would also be concerned regarding odors, and stream pollution. Crawford said that Kubinski would be notified regarding this unsatisfactory operation.

He appears that other material is being deposited at this site by Kubinski. This material consists mainly of refuse building materials. Kubinski is probably trying to fill in this low marshy area for future development. In the process it appears that he is encroaching on the stream bed. However, many large (8 to 10" long) gold fish were observed swimming in the waters upstream from the disposal areas. The downstream region could not be observed due to inaccessibility.

It was later determined that the wastes were being hauled from the Union Oil Company and not the "Texaco" refinery, as previously reported.


John C. McLane, Sanitary Engineer

JCM :am
6/25/70

May 28, 1970:

Granot called. All sludges from this plant are land filled, since there is no on-site disposal unit. Mr. Kubinsky hauls their sludges. He said that the contract between Union and Kubinsky requires him to haul to an approved site. Also, he has inspected the Crest Hill site, which is not an approved disposal site, and that his observations indicated that there was no runoff problem. He said that Kubinsky is trying to fill-in his own land and that he had contacted the agriculture people who said that the sludge would help the soil. Granot said that all sludges would be hauled to the Bennitt Dump in Rockdale, which is approved by Will County Health Department, or that Kubinsky would try to get the Crest Hill site approved by the Will County Health Department.

I recommended that all sludges be hauled to the Bennitt Dump and not Crest Hill and that the sludges already deposited at Crest Hill should be removed and properly disposed.

This site will again be inspected in the near future.

Gary D. Harmon
Gary D. Harmon, Sanitary Engineer, Chicago

GDH:arl
6/3/70